ANAMALAIS-CHALAKKUDI ROAD—PROGRESS OF WORK

103. Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Will Government be pleased to state what progress has been made in the construction of the Anamalais-Chalakkudi road and when it is expected to be completed and at what cost ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Work in the first section of the road is in progress. Earthwork on 12½ miles out of 21 miles in this section has been completed and the construction of bridges and culverts for the first five miles is nearing completion. Metalling of the first five miles is in progress. The contract for the construction of bridges and culverts and metalling from the fifth to the tenth mile is being awarded. Due to the uncertainty of labour conditions, it is not possible to state now what the work will eventually cost. The exact time of completion also cannot now be estimated due to these reasons.

CUT MOTION No. 49—*(cont.)*

Ward elections for Panchayats

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* The principle underlying the cut motion can be accepted by the Government, but in the practical working as the Hon'ble House is aware there will be some difficulties in the allocation of these wards. I think this has to be gone into in detail. I cannot all on a sudden give an assurance that this can be finally accepted and adopted by the Government. For instance in Mulanthuruthi, that particular Panchayat, there is only one village and five members. It is very easy to divide it into 5 wards. In some other Panchayats consisting of three villages may contain seven members, five elected and two nominated. Incidently the other question also crops up, the reservation of seats and doing away with nomination. All these questions will have to be gone into and it is engaging my attention.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Why not bring a Panchayat Bill ?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* Yes. Government is contemplating and I think we will be able to introduce that bill in the very near future and this question is being considered; but no assurance can be given.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* What is the number of electors in the Mulanthuruthi Panchayat ?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* I have not got a Census of that particular area. I want notice.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* I am glad to find that the Government are proposing to go into the whole question and to bring a bill, if necessary. In view of that assurance, I beg leave to withdraw the motion

Motion, by leave, withdrawn

CUT MOTION No. 50

Partiality shown to the Village of the Minister and the villages in his constituency

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Sir, I rise to move *to reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,993 for Village Panchayats Establishment by Re. 1 to bring to the notice of the House the partiality shown to the Village of the Minister and the villages in his constituencies.* Sir, a litte mathematics will be very interesting and we are now discussing the Minister's administration. I suppose the House will eagerly await the disclosures I am going to make. Last year the total amount was 1,70,000 rupees. For the Talappalli Taluk, the Minister's Taluk, the amount appropriated was Rs. 51,200, for his constituency Rs. 23,250 and for Pazhayannur Rs. 9,000. This year the total allotment is Rs. 1,85,000. Talappalli Taluk gets Rs. 55,000, the Minister's constituency, Rs. 21,200 and Pazhayannur gets Rs. 12,000. The totals for both the years' lump sum amount for minor irrigation is Rs. 3,55,000, Talappalli Taluk gets Rs. 1,09,000 rupees the Minister's constituency, Rs. 44,000 and Pazhayannur Village alone Rs. 21,000.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* But still it is my constituency.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* On a closer analysis, you find that 1/3 of the total allotment for the 7 taluks, namely a lkah of rupees has been allotted for Talappalli Taluk. Now coming to his constituency—there are, 38 constituencies in the State, out of which 8 may be

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

taken out and then the division ought to be about 10,000 rupees for a constituency. But his constituency has got nearly Rs. 45,000, just four times that constituency deserves, territorially distributed. I am advocating the Taluk war distribution of Mr. Iyyu.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: But unintelligently applied.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: I cannot have the intelligence of the Welfare Officer. In the Cochin State we have got 287 villages. Therefore dividing Rs. 3,55,000 by 287 we will get a little over Rs. 1,000, whereas his constituency gets Rs. 21,000. The result is that there is heart burning amongst the several villages and when these figures go out will be a hue and cry that the Minister is appropriating more for his Village. And as regards his popularity in his village you can take it that he is sure to become unpopular as that village will be full of tanks and thodus.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: This information also, the Hon'ble Member got from my Village?

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: With half the intelligence which has been credited to me, I can imagine this. Anyway to be very serious please make a more equitable distribution. My object is to discuss the question.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: Oh, Yes. I am very serious.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: I want you to explain. I am helping the Minister. I want him to explain to the House, why exactly this has been done?

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)*: I have to make a suggestion. There is an Irrigation Board consisting of 7 members, all elected by the public. Allotments are made of Rs. 5,000, Rs. 6,000 and so on in the Panchayat. If all these items are sent to the Irrigation Board, they will be in a position to say whether they are necessary or not. All the major irrigation works are placed before the Irrigation Board. So, what is the objection to place all these also in the Irrigation Board? Then there would be no accusations at all. That is my suggestion.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: First I will answer to the suggestion put forward by Mr. Ramachandra Ayyar, the Hon'ble Member for Nellayi. I completely agree with the suggestion and if that Board will be placed under the Minister so far as the minor irrigation scheme is concerned, I have no objection. That is the only answer. I have no objection to place this minor irrigation scheme before the Irrigation Board provided that the Irrigrtion Board is placed under the Minister so far as the minor irrigation is concerned.

Then coming to the cut motion proper, by this cut motion I stand condemned in the eyes of this House and an explanation is due from me. That is why I stand up.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: You stand accused, not condemned.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: As the Hon'ble House is aware a sum of Rs. 50,000 is placed at the disposal of the Minister in the Panchayat budget for original works in the various Panchayats. The usual practice was to distribute these items according to the sweet will and pleasure of the Minister to the various Panchayats. Last year, with the concurrence of this House, I just put forward a scheme before this House and the House accepted that, and the scheme is for distributing this Rs. 50,000 to all the 87 Panchayats according to the area and population basis. This year also, *i.e.*, in 1119, it is being followad. I hope the House will agree with me when I say that it is the most equitable distribution of the Rs. 50,000 placed at my disposal for the Panchayats. Last year, 2 lakhs of rupees was placed at my disposal as special contribution for rural development. I set apart Rs. 1,70,000 for minor irrigation works and several important works in the State were taken up and almost completed. The same sum of 2 lakhs is placed at my disposal for 1119 also, and I have allotted Rs. 1, 85,000 for minor irrigation to be carried out next year. If the Hon'ble House wants an equitable distribution of this minor irrigation allotment also, just as I distributed the Rs. 50,000, I have no objection. But I may place immediately before the House that there may not be minor irrigation schemes in several Panchayats. I will place before this House another complaint raised by my constituents. It is only in a humerous way. When I went there some years ago while I was on the other side some people complained to me, that the Cochin Government is spending so many lakhs of rupees on this Harbour: why not take that harbour to our constituency. Recently, there was another complaint, when I camped at Thiruvilluamala that the Cochin Government is spending lakhs and lakhs of rupees on the Chalakkudi Irrigation Scheme, why not our representative who is the Minister now move the Government to transfer the whole thing to Thiruvilluamala. I think the Hon'ble Member will agree with me when I say that Talappalli and Chittur Taluks, as the Food

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Supplies Director will also agree with me, that it is the granary of our State. There are several thousands of tanks there. The Hon'ble Member will scrutinise the Budget. Have I constructed a single new tank? No. All old tanks which were silted up long, long ago.....

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Without interruption, are these tanks above the level of the paddy fields or below them?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)* : I am prepared to take the Hon'ble Member with me to my constituency and show him every work turned out there.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. ജെ. മത്തായി: നിലത്തിനു മീതെയാണോ; അതോ നിലത്തിലേക്കു വെള്ളം ഒഴുകി വരുമോ?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: I understand your point. Otherwise, it may not be an irrigation tank. Do you mean to say that the whole amount is spent for bathing purpôses? I have not provided a single pie for digging tanks.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Then you are repairfng, it is digging.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rurl Development)*: It is not digging. It is clearing the silt, and making it fit to store more and more water, so that the people of Cochin-Kanayannur and other costal areas who are not able to produce paddy in their fields get more and more paddy from our Taluk. That was my idea. I ask the Hon'ble Member one question, can you show me one single irrigation scheme in the coastal areas? What about Narakkal Panchayat? For what purpose that amount will be utilised, if we distrihute it equitably?

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: That is admitted.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: Several other points have also to be admitted.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: But bunds can be put up.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: Show me where, I will provide. I am hunting after such irrigation schumes and the Diwan is prepared to place any amount at my disposal provided I am able to spend the whole amount. And in these critical times when we are spending these amounts simply for the sake of food production, the Honble Member for Planters who ought to know much better about all these things comes forward and creates an impression that the present Minister is showing partiality to his village. Sir, which is my village? Cochin State. The moment I show partiality to any constituency, not even my constituency, any village or person, I am confident that I am unfit to hold this job. I do not deserve the confidence reposed in me by this Hon'ble House. If the Hon'ble House thinks that this amount set apart in 1119 to my constituency should not be spent there, Sir, the amout may be deleted.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: By whom?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: By the House. In this particular case, I must have the support of the House. Otherwise, I do not want to spend a single pie in my constituency. I will do away with the whole amount. Why should I spend it Sir? My constituency, as the Hon'ble Member knows, is a hilly tract. How do you compare these two cut motions—the Hon'ble Member has another cut motion—No. 4—to point out the need for storing water at a high level for irrigation. Where can I store it? In all the Panchayats?

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Many.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: 'Many' is no answer. The equitable distribution of water storage is the question. How I can I store water in all the Panchayats? Only where there are facilities and my constituency has got facilities, and I am spending these sums only for improving such tanks and such storages. I hope I have explained my postion very clear. If the House is not for retaining those amounts, I have no objection. I am prepared to take the verdict of the Hause. I pray that I may not be misunderstood. I am not of that type. I appeal to the House to take me in that light. There-is no partiality at all. As I told you before, the moment you find me partial, throw me out (*hear, hear*), and I am not fit to be here. That is my conviction. I spoke with some feeling because it is a personal question. I owe an apology to this House.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkalam)*: Sir, of course, my speech will not be a very long since the larger issues involved have been answered by the Hon'ble Minister. The other day when I was presnt in a gathering at Pazhayannur when a Water Reservoir was being opened by the Hon'ble Minister. A few weeks before this incident, when I happened to see some of the people of Pazhayannur, they told me "why should the Government construct all these chiras? It is not to benefit us. On the other hand, the purpose is to take away all our paddy from here at the rate of Re. 1—4—0." I then said that the paddy which is grown in Pazhyaannur, belongs to

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

the whole State including the people of Cochin-Kanayannur and Cranganur Taluks. It belongs as much to the people of Elankunnapuzha, as to there in Pazhayannur. Every food grain grown anywhere in Cochin State is the common property of all the people of Cochin. With that idea, the people of Talappalli and Chittur Taluks ought to patronise their fellow subjects in other parts of the State. Even Trichur is not a surplus Taluk. Mukundapuram still less.

Mr. A. T. Kunhipalu *(Kattur)*: Who told you that ?

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: Mukundapuram cannot produce all the paddy which is needed for the consumption of your people. I may also add for the information of this House, that all parts of Talappalli are not fit for big or small irrigation works. The eastern villages of Talappalli Taluk are the areas where irrigation works can be started. The Hon'ble Member for Planters will note that my constituency which is the western portion of Talappalli has not received more than Rs. 2,400 under minor irrigation head. The reason is obvious. There is less scope for minor irrigation than the eastern constituencies. So, wherever there is scope, all the natural resources of the State available must be exploited, and especially at this time when there is need for more food crops. It is a pity that a member who knows the eastern areas of Talappalli as a good rubber producing area, has brought this to the notice of this House in a sort of personal insinuation unbecoming of an Hon'ble Member.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: I may submit to this House that there is nothing personal. You can see that I have not brought this motion under the Minister's salary. Secondly, I have great admiration for the great qualities of Mr. T. K. Nayar, the Minister, personally.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: I thank the Hon'ble Member for having given me this opportunity. Otherwise, several members will misunderstand me. And I can take the verdict of the House.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: It is only the sport that can take it in that spirit.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: Sir, in this minor irrigation in distributing the allotment of 2 lakhs of rupees, I find sluices, chiras coming up. I was very glad to hear from the Minister his definition of "equitable distribution" of this money. I first thought that it was equal distribution that was to be made. Certainly, if you make a distribution to all the Panchayats, that will not be tendering to the needs of the people at all. It is frittering away the money. Where the money is required to be spent, there it should be spent. If nothing is required nothing should be spent. I was, therefore, very glad to hear that it is because that part of the country needed more money to be spent to make the irrigation works satisfactory for production purposes that much money was allotted and distributed for that part. There has been a complaint against the Minister, and it is only to explain my position that I rose up to say a few words. Otherwise, the explanation of the Minister was quite enough to shatter all insinuations made against him.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: I never made any insinuations.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: There are some bunds and sluices in Chellanam side. We have got a very irrepressible gentleman there.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: There is another cut motion, Sir, cut motion No. 10.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Sir, I wish to add a few words. I was glad to hear the explanation given by the Hon'ble Minister. That explanation clearly shows that there was no partiality shown to his constituency. But what I say is that he should show some partiality. Otherwise what is the privilege of these people for having a Minister of their own. Every human being has a love for his family and his native place.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: Which is my constituency ?

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Pazhayannur.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: No, it is the whole of Cochin State.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Technically you can say that.

What I say is that the Hon'ble Minister ought to show some partiality. If the House is dissatisfied, we will remove you.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: Even while I was there, I was able to get as much as I wanted. I know how to put things and how to get things.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: What I want to submit is, it is all a privilege of the Minister to do something for his constituency.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: We may have something on the cut motion.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: I have only to put one word, and that is, the Hon'ble Member for Planters cannot raise any cut motion because I have spent the whole amount of Rs. 1,85,000 in his constituency.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Which is my constituency? It is Cochin State.

Mr. President: The Hon'ble Minister representing the transferred half humorously referred to the large amounts spent on the Harbour and proposed to be spent on the Chalakkudi scheme. On behalf of the reserved half I would like to point out one reason why it is possible to get minor irrigation works done is the existence of the Harbour. Directly and indirectly very large sums of money are being derived by the State from the Harbour. So far as the Chalakkudi scheme is concerned they need not have any fear because the scheme is designed to bring in a good return for the money expended. I realise that he said it in a humorous way and my reply is in the same spirit.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: In regard to this matter I have to make one preliminary observation. So far as Cochin politics go there is a ministerialist party and there is practically no opposition, and so far as opposition goes my little insight into the records of the Mother of Parliament have shown me that there has been accusation on the floor of the mother of Parliament of Ministers being traitors by no less a person than Sir Austin Chamberlain. Therefore I mean to say it is for the opposition to oppose and it is for the opposition to criticise the Minister and say anything provided we keep his person sacro-sanct so far as the individual person and character of Mr. Nayar is concerned, this is not the forum for us to say anything. As far as his actions as the Minister are concerned, Sir, we are entitled to say that he has been partial and he has been wrong.

Mr. President: I can assure the Hon'ble Member that if he had indulged in anything unparliamentary I would have rectified it.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: We have to keep his person above everything, as I said sacro-sanct, but so far as his actions are concerned, subject to the authority and the rulings of the Chair, we can certainly attack him constitutionally. I may also say that the object of the motion was for a discussion. We wanted to know why exactly such large amounts have been utilised for his constituency and the Talappalli Taluk and if anybody felt that this was an attack, I am sure the Hon'ble Minister has not taken this as an attack. If we have left the budget as it was anybody who goes through the budget would have wondered why so much amount has been spent by him in such a manner.

As regards the merits of the question, I must confess that I am not satisfied. Immediately comes below Motion No. 5 the reply to which I may anticipate, as it has come from certain quarters, is that there is not enough money, but I should not go into that now. I have only to point out that there are other cases which demand immediate action, for instance the Pothundi reservoir scheme.

Mr. C. K. Nayar *(Nemmara)*: That is not a minor irrigation scheme.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: There are several minor irrigation schemes which can be taken.

Mr. Joseph Pettah *(Adur)*: Will you mention some of those works?

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Provided you come with me for tea. I can assert that there are any number of other works which could be taken up in the Chittur Taluk, in the Mukundapuram Taluk and Trichur, portions of the Cochin State on the eastern side of the Railway.

Mr. President: Where?

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: All over the Cochin State.

Mr. Joseph Pettah *(Adur)*: Let him mention a specific case.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: The valley starting from the Kuthiran Hills in Trichur which is on the way to Chittur.

Anyhow, in view of the explanation given by the Hon'ble Minister I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn

CUT MOTION No. 51

Storing water in higher levels for irrigation

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Sir, I move the motion with the *object of discussing the desirability of storing water on higher levels than the fields.* If water is stored below the level

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly